

# MINUTES

## TAHLEQUAH CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Date/Time of City Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.  
Place of Meeting: The meeting was held at 111 Cherokee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464 (voting members of the public body were present in person) and by Videoconference and/or Teleconference.

All voting members of the public body attended the meeting in person, any member of the public, nonvoting elected officials, and/or City staff was able to attend the meeting in person with appropriate distancing or remotely by Zoom Videoconference and/or Teleconference. Instructions for remote attendance are provided below.

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### 1. MEETING CONVENED

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Meeting **called to order** by Mayor Catron at 5:32 p.m.  
City Clerk DeAnna Hammons Called the **Roll call as follows:**

**Councilors Present:**

Councilor Ward I	Bree Long
Councilor Ward II	Keith Baker
Councilor Ward III	Stephen Highers
Councilor Ward IV	Trae Ratliff

**Others Present:**

Mayor Sue Catron, City Attorney Grant Lloyd, City Clerk DeAnna Hammons, City Administrator Alan Chapman, City Treasurer Marty Hainzinger

**Absent:** none

**Invocation – Ed Haworth – New Life Worship Church**

**Flag salute.**

**Public Notice:** A Public Notice of meeting was provided December 8, 2020 at 3:32 p.m. to the Secretary of State of Oklahoma and additional notice was provided August 19, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

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### 2. PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS:

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**Videoconference and/or Teleconference Access Instructions for Public Attendance at the Meeting:** the Public may remotely attend this meeting by joining the Zoom meeting via the web or the Zoom app ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)) **Access Code 815 8763 9276 Password 037756.** Materials presented electronically to Councilors that attend remotely will be made available

to those Councilors via the Zoom meeting platform and/or or another digital platform. If you wish to receive a copy of any materials that are presented to the City Council via Zoom or otherwise, please submit your request to [cityclerk@cityoftahlequah.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftahlequah.com).

**Videoconference and/or Teleconference Notice:** This meeting will include communication by City Staff to the City Council, and those communications may be by auditory communication or by visual and auditory communication. Communication by and between the City Council and/or members of the Public may be limited to auditory only communication.

The Public may ask questions during the discussion of each agenda item by typing the word “question” along with his or her name in the chat bar and waiting to be called on. If communicating via the Zoom Videoconference and/or Teleconference, the Mayor will call upon you to unmute yourself so that you may speak. Only questions spoken out loud are allowed to be responded to. Please do not type out your questions in the chat bar.

Should there be any technical difficulties during the meeting please refer to the City of Tahlequah website and/or City of Tahlequah Facebook page as the City will address any issues and/or provide further instructions.

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### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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1. Steve Worth spoke regarding Trust Indenture questions.
2. John Johnson spoke regarding support for current board members of the Tahlequah Hospital Authority.
3. Dr. Jack Weaver spoke regarding recognition of the Tahlequah community and health system.

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### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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Councilor Long made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) To approve the minutes of the August 2, 13, 16, & 30 2021 City Council meetings.
- b) To acknowledge receipt of the monthly check register for August 2021.
- c) To acknowledge receipt of the July 2021 financials.
- d) To approve amended 2021 Meeting Schedule for the Historic Preservation Board.
- e) Councilor Baker removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.
- f) Councilor Highers removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.
- g) Councilor Ratliff removed agenda item to be heard in regular session.
- h) To accept the resignations from Misti Armstrong, Part Time Laborer Cashier/Court, in the Managerial Department, effective August 16, 2021.
- i) To accept the resignations from Benjamin Jackson, Trinity Reed and Zoeie Gage, Lifeguards, in the Parks and Recreation Department, effective August 9, 2021.
- j) To lift the moratorium and hire Tiffany Coones, Part Time Laborer in the Parks and Recreation Department at \$10.50 per hour.
- k) To lift the moratorium and hire Kaylea Moss, Part Time Cashier/Court in the Managerial Department at \$10.50 per hour.

- l) To lift the moratorium and hire Robby Morgan as a Full Time Collector T112, in the Solid Waste Department effective September 11, 2021.
- m) To lift the moratorium and hire Chris Houglund as a Full Time Collector T112, in the Solid Waste Department effective September 11, 2021.
- n) To lift the moratorium and hire Kristen Jones as a Full Time Collector T112, in the Solid Waste Department effective September 11, 2021.
- o) To lift the moratorium and hire Arlen Favinger as a Full Time Laborer T112, in the Parks and Recreation Department effective September 11, 2021.
- p) To promote Bruce Gower from Dispatcher to Patrolman I in the Police Department effective September 11, 2021 and adjust pay according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

*Vote:* Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff                      Nays: none      Motion carried.

## 5.      **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

Recognition of Years of Service for **September** Employees:

- **Paul Yochum – Police Department -15 years**
- **William Robertson – Police Department – 5 years**
- **Billy Hicks – Street Department – 5 years**

Recognition of **Rick Dye** as the City of Tahlequah’s **Employee of the Month** for September 2021.

Report from Library – None provided

Report from Chamber of Commerce – Verbal

Report from Tour Tahlequah a Department of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce – Verbal and written report provided

Report from the Tahlequah Main Street Association – None provided

## **REGULAR SESSION**

6.      Mayor Catron moved discussion and possible action on items removed from the consent agenda item to be heard after agenda item #11.
7.      Discussion related to **Covid-19 Pandemic**.
8.      Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Highers seconded to **authorize** use of **City owned property** for the installation of **bee hotels** by Girl Scout Troop 1380.

*Vote:* Ayes: Long, Baker, Highers, Ratliff                      Nays: none      Motion carried.

9. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **approve participation in the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant and execute/sign all documents as needed.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Baker, Highers, Ratliff, Long                      Nays: none    Motion carried.

10. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **accept an MOU between the City of Tahlequah and FOP Lodge #201 in regard to Covid schedule.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Highers, Ratliff, Long, Baker                      Nays: none    Motion carried.

11. Discussion related to the **Tahlequah Hospital Authority (THA) doing business as Northeastern Health System, THA trust indenture of 1974, THA lease of 1974, THA trust amendment of 1986, THA trust amendment of 2010, any other documents or correspondence related to proposed THA trust amendments, and any other documents or correspondence pertaining to THA or any of the component units or partnerships of the THA doing business as Northeastern Health System, as reflected in their financial reports,** whether wholly or partially owned by THA.

- Councilor Long excused herself at 7:12 p.m. and returned at 7:15 p.m.
- Councilor Ratliff excused himself at 7:52 p.m. and returned at 7:53 p.m.
- Councilor Long excused herself at 7:53 p.m. and returned at 7:56 p.m.
- Councilor Highers excused himself at 8:21 p.m. and returned at 8:23 p.m.

- 6. Discussion of items removed from consent:

Councilor Baker removed item “e”, Councilor Highers removed item “f” and Councilor Ratliff removed item “g” to be heard in regular session.

e) No action was taken to appoint Mr. Bob Girdner as a Trustee to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority replacing Ms. Judy Williams.

f) No action was taken to appoint Mr. Bobby McAlpine as a Trustee to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority replacing Ms. Susan Plumb.

g) No action was taken to appoint Dr. John Galdamez as a Trustee to the Tahlequah Hospital Authority replacing Dr. Charles Gosnell.

12. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to **exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.**

*Vote:* Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Baker, Highers                      Nays: none    Motion carried.

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- ❖ Discussion pertaining to the 2021-2022 contract with **IAFF Local 4099**, as provided in 25 O.S. §307 (B) (2).
  - ❖ Discussion regarding confidential communications related to ***City of Tahlequah v. Springwater Properties, LLC, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case Nos. CV-2018-43 and CJ-2020-56***, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (3), (4), and/or (7).
  - ❖ Discussion regarding confidential communications related to ***Edward G. Carr v. City of Tahlequah, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case No. CJ-2020-158***, as provided by 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (4) and/or (7).
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13. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to reconvene Regular Session at 9:50 p.m.

*Vote:* Ayes: Baker, Highers, Ratliff, Long                      Nays: none      Motion carried.

14. No action was taken to approve the 2021-2022 contract with the IAFF.
15. Councilor Ratliff made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to authorize City Attorney Grant Lloyd to withdraw as an attorney of record from ***City of Tahlequah v. Springwater Properties, LLC, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case Nos. CV-2018-43 and CJ-2020-56***.
16. No action was taken related to ***Edward G. Carr v. City of Tahlequah, et al., Cherokee County District Court, State of Oklahoma, Case No. CJ-2020-158***.
17. No mid-month Special meeting was scheduled at this time.
18. Councilor Highers made a motion and Councilor Long seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:53 p.m.

*Vote:* Ayes: Ratliff, Long, Baker, Highers                      Nays: none      Motion carried.